

HB 2227 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Gillian Fischer, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/20, 3/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds animal control officer to the definition of public or private officials. Requires animal control officers to report or cause a report to be made if they have reasonable cause to believe that any child with whom the official has contact has suffered abuse or that any person with whom the official has contact has abused a child.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Measure does not expand the authority of animal control officers
- Statistics show an increased prevalence of child abuse in homes where there is animal abuse occurring
- A report of animal abuse does not itself trigger a mandatory report of child abuse

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Any public or private official having reasonable cause to believe that any child with whom the official comes in contact has suffered abuse or that any person with whom the official comes in contact has abused a child shall immediately report or cause a report to be made in the manner required in ORS 419B.015. HB 2227 identifies animal control officers as public officials.